

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:225
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
ADULTERATION IN KEROSENE
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of adulteration in the kerosene, sold in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to check such adulteration;
- (c) whether there is a proposal to ban import of kerosene by Non-Governmental companies;
- (d) if so, the details of the same; and
- (e) the extent to which ban imposed on import of kerosene would ensure availability of pure kerosene in the markets?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AYAR)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.225 BY SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY TO BE ANSWERED ON 16 TH DECEMBER, 2004 REGARDING ADULTERATION IN KEROSENE.

(a): While there is no adulteration in kerosene, Government is aware of attempts by unscrupulous elements to adulterate auto fuels with kerosene.

(b) : In order to reduce, minimize and eventually eliminate the possibility of diversion of kerosene for adulteration, a number of steps have been taken by the Government and the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). These include the following :-

- Government have issued the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. MS/HSD (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998 also provides for prevention of use of petroleum products other than MS/HSD as auto fuel. These Orders provide powers of search and seizure to the officers of the State Governments and OMCs with a view to check adulteration. State Governments and OMCs have been advised to take strict action under these Orders against persons indulging in adulteration.
- Blue dyeing of kerosene supplied under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to differentiate it from the free sale kerosene.
- Furfural doping of kerosene to detect its presence in petrol/diesel.
- A strict upliftment schedule has been laid down wherein wholesale kerosene dealers are required to uplift the product in three instalments each month.
- Prohibition of use of kerosene under the PDS for purposes other than cooking and illumination.
- Oil Marketing Companies undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices.
- Marketing Discipline Guidelines provide for penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.
- Oil Marketing Companies have also introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en route adulteration by transporters.
- Trials have been undertaken for introduction of Marker System which would enable easy detection of an adulterant in petrol/diesel.

(c) to (e) : As per extant Government policy, there is no ban on import of kerosene, but the import of kerosene has been canalized through Public Sector Enterprises, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and IBP Company Limited (IBP). Government Oil Marketing Companies have been allowed to market their indigenously produced surplus kerosene (non-PDS) direct to customers. Such surplus non-PDS kerosene is available in adequate quantity at prevailing market prices.

